

Amendments to the Claims

1. *(Currently Amended)* A method for storing and/or changing a state information item of a memory (2)-containing a plurality of memory cells (3)-, wherein the memory cells (3)-assume an irreversible memory state as a result of a programming step, wherein the state information is represented by a number and/or position of memory cells (3)-existing or programmed in an irreversible memory state, said method comprising the steps presented in the following; determining the state information (83,813)-by checking the memory state of the memory (2)-and selecting (84,814) an unprogrammed memory cell (3)-and programming (85,815)-the selected memory cell (3)-during and/or for changing the state information of the memory (2)-.
2. *(Currently Amended)* A method according to claim 1, wherein, prior to determination of the state information, an encryption of data and/or a verification of an access authorization to the memory (2)-is carried out.
3. *(Currently Amended)* A method according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1, wherein, for determining the state information of the memory, a serial output (12)-of the memory (2)-is fed to a counter or a toggle flip-flop (17)-, whereby the number of memory cells (3)-programmed or in an irreversible memory state and/or the position of an unprogrammed memory cell is determined.
4. *(Currently Amended)* A method according to claim 3, wherein timing pulses are applied to memory (2)-and by verifying the timing pulses at the serial output (12)-of the memory (2)-, a position of an unprogrammed memory cell is determined.
5. *(Currently Amended)* An integrated circuit for storing and/or changing state information of a memory (2)-containing a plurality of memory cells (3)-, wherein the memory cells (3)-assume an irreversible memory state as a result of a programming step, said integrated circuit containing a programming unit (8)-for programming the memory cells (3)-and a feed-logic circuit (9)-, said feed-logic circuit (9)-being

provided for picking up and emitting data for programming and determining the state information of memory (2).

6. *(Currently Amended)* An integrated circuit according to claim 5, wherein a serial output (12) of the feed-logic circuit (9) interacts with an evaluation unit (17, 19) for determining the state information and for selecting an unprogrammed memory cell (3).

7. *(Currently Amended)* An integrated circuit according to claim 6, wherein the serial output (12) of the feed-logic circuit (9) interacts with a counter or a toggle flip-flop (17), in order to determine the number of memory cells (3) programmed or being in an irreversible memory state and/or the position of an unprogrammed memory cell (3).

8. *(Currently Amended)* An integrated circuit according to claim 6 or 7, wherein additionally a circuit (7) is provided for the verification and/or encryption of data.

9. *(Currently Amended)* An integrated circuit according to ~~anyone of the claims 5 to 8~~ claim 5, wherein additionally a memory is provided for additional storage of preset data and/or data that can be entered via an input device.

10. *(Currently Amended)* A data carrier containing an integrated circuit according to ~~anyone of the claims 5 to 9~~ claim 5.

11. *(Currently Amended)* A data carrier according to claim 10, wherein the data carrier is designed for contactless communication with a communication station.

12. *(Currently Amended)* A data carrier according to ~~claim 10 or 11~~ claim 10, wherein the data carrier is in the form of a tag or label.